

January 15, 2009

MUHLENBERG COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

LOCAL/STATE BOARD HEARING REPORT

A local/state public hearing was held at the Muhlenberg South High School, 2900 State Route 176, Greenville, Ky. 42345 on January 15, 2009 at 6:00pm CST. The purpose of the public hearing was to propose a new District Facility Plan developed by the Muhlenberg County Local Planning Committee. The Local Planning Committee voted 11 to 1 in favor of the proposed new plan. The local board voted 5-0 to approve the new plan.

There were 69 individuals in attendance. William Lovell of the Kentucky School Boards Association served as the locally-appointed hearing officer. There were 15 employees of the Muhlenberg Co. Schools and one local board member present. 53 attendees were parents or community members of Muhlenberg Co. and 1 was an attorney for two parent members of the South High Site Based Decision Making Council. Dale Todd, Robert Reynolds, Jeff Travis, Mike Owsley, and Kerri Pryor were seated as employees of the district and record keepers.

COMMENTS

Mr. Robert Reynolds, chairman LPC/District Designee called the public hearing to order. The district designee welcomed the hearing officer and those in attendance and then turned the meeting over to William Lovell. The hearing officer outlined the purpose of the hearing and the hearing procedures in accordance with 702 KAR 1:001. It was explained that those persons wishing to speak would be given the opportunity and that written statements would be accepted. It was also noted that all considerations will be made available to the Kentucky Board of Education via the hearing officer's report. The hearing officer read the proposed new District Facility Plan to those in attendance. The hearing officer then read all written letters and e-mails to the district. 12 of the letters were in support and 1 was in opposition. Mr. Dale Todd introduced a DVD high school restructuring presentation and a DVD of the Muhlenberg County Schools Restructuring Presentation. The DVDs of the last two public forums on 12-1-08 and 12-11-08 are also available for viewing.

The floor was opened to those who had signed up to speak. There were 16 that spoke in the meeting. 15 were opposed to the plan and 1 was in favor of the plan. **Daniel Thomas**, attorney for **Nick Sparks** and **Dr. Kelly Tarter**, presented a brief to be sent to the Department of Education. **Daniel Thomas, Nick Sparks, and Dr. Kelly Tarter** gave their reason for opposition as the board is usurping the authority of the Site Based Council. **Jeff Vincent, Dr. Kelly Vincent, Dr. Craig Scharf, Kevin Hunt, Amy Arnold, and Lauren Sparks** gave reason for opposition as not enough time being given to make this work. They felt the district needs to wait at least 6 months to look at this again. **Lora Arrendell** in opposition gave the reason that she believes it will not work.

Laura Daubert spoke in opposition to plan because she believes the plan will result in an increase in dropouts, loss of athletics and lower CATS scores. **William McGehee** spoke in opposition because he did not like the former merger and will not like this one. **Rosie Campbell** spoke in opposition because she does not like back and forth in block scheduling. **Bobby Campbell** spoke in opposition but did not state a reason. **Tammy McGehee** spoke in opposition because she does not like KERA or NCLB. **Wade Walters** spoke in favor of the plan and sees a need for curriculum change.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended by KDE staff that the new District Facility Plan developed by the Muhlenberg County Local Planning Committee and adopted by the Muhlenberg County Board of Education be approved as the District Facility Plan for the Muhlenberg County School District. A copy of the new plan is attached.

Respectfully submitted

William S. Lovell,
(KSBA) Hearing Officer

Timothy K. Lucas,
KDE, Planning Branch Manager

Cc: Mark W. Ryles, Director
Planning File

Att: Local/State Board Hearing Agenda
Muhlenberg County School DFP